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Comments

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Realizing the importance of submarine warfare for the Soviet Union, the Soviets have been attaching particular importance to the problem of repairs to submarines during the war. They showed keen interest in the evaluation of German experiences. The author of this report was considered a suitable commentator on this subject as he had been employed in this field of activity by the Germans during the war and had acquired profound knowledge.

Obviously, the Soviet Naval authority, when ordering this report, had in mind a situation similar to that which the Germans faced when the Norwegian and French harbors were at their disposal during the war. The shipyard capacities, which offered particular advantages due to the shortening of the approaches to the operation areas of the submarines in this case, had to be utilized. This, however, was only possible if strong protection bunkers were available. The shipyards also had to be prepared for their special purposes. The measures taken and the experiences gained by the Germans will undoubtedly serve the Soviets as a guide to success. (For example, the average duration of a war cruise of a German U-boat during World War II rose to as much as 75 days, whereas the average repair period in shipyards between two war cruises, viz. 27 days, was 20 per cent shorter than the repair periods during World War I.

1. Annex: Study "Repair Work to German Submarines."

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